Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (withdrawn) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 6, which encodes an epitope-bearing portion of a connective tissue growth factor-3 polypeptide selected from the group consisting of: a polypeptide comprising amino acid residues from about 36 to about 49 in SEQ ID NO:2; a polypeptide comprising amino acid residues from about 75 to about 109 in SEQ ID NO:2; a polypeptide comprising amino acid residues from about 115 to about 139 in SEQ ID NO:2; and a polypeptide comprising amino acid residues from about 196 to about 230 in SEQ ID NO:2.

Claims 8-23 (canceled).

Claim 24 (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polynucleotide encoding amino acid residues -19 to +231 of SEQ ID NO:2;

(b) a polynucleotide encoding amino acid residues -18 to +231 of SEQ ID NO:2; and

(c) a polynucleotide encoding amino acid residues +1 to +231 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 25. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 24, wherein said polynucleotide is (a).

Claim 26. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 24, wherein said polynucleotide is (b).

Claim 27. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 24, wherein said polynucleotide is (c).

Claim 28. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 24, wherein the polynucleotide further comprises a heterologous polynucleotide.

Claim 29. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 28, wherein said heterologous polynucleotide encodes a heterologous polypeptide.

Claim 30. (Previously presented) A vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 24.

Claim 31. (Previously presented) The vector of claim 30, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is operably associated with a heterologous regulatory sequence that controls gene expression.

Claim 32. (Previously presented) A recombinant host cell comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 24.

Claim 33. (Previously presented) The recombinant host cell of claim 32, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is operably associated with a heterologous regulatory sequence that controls gene expression.

Claim 34. (Previously presented) A method for producing a polypeptide, comprising:

(a) culturing the recombinant host cell of claim 32 under conditions suitable to produce the polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide; and

(b) recovering the polypeptide from the cell culture.

Claim 35. (Previously presented) A composition comprising the polynucleotide of claim 24 and a carrier.

Claim 36. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule ~~comprising a polynucleotide~~ selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polynucleotide encoding the amino acid sequence of the full-length polypeptide encoded by the cDNA clone contained in ATCC Deposit No. 97756; and

(b) a polynucleotide encoding the amino acid sequence of the mature polypeptide encoded by the cDNA clone contained in ATCC Deposit No. 97756.

Claim 37. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 36, wherein said polynucleotide is that set forth in (a).

Claim 38. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 36, wherein said polynucleotide is that set forth in (b).

Claim 39. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 36, wherein ~~the~~ said polynucleotide further comprises a heterologous polynucleotide.

Claim 40. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 39, wherein said heterologous polynucleotide encodes a heterologous polypeptide.

Claim 41. (Previously presented) A vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 36.

Claim 42. (Previously presented) The vector of claim 41, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is operably associated with a heterologous regulatory sequence that controls gene expression.

Claim 43. (Previously presented) A recombinant host cell comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 36.

Claim 44. (Previously presented) The recombinant host cell of claim 43, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is operably associated with a heterologous regulatory sequence that controls gene expression.

Claim 45. (Previously presented) A method for producing a polypeptide, comprising:

(a) culturing the recombinant host cell of claim 43 under conditions suitable to produce the polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide; and

(b) recovering the polypeptide from the cell culture.

Claim 46. (Previously presented) A composition comprising the polynucleotide of claim 36 and a carrier.

Claim 47. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a polynucleotide encoding at least 30 amino acid residues of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 48. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 47, wherein said polynucleotide encodes at least 50 amino acid residues of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 49. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 47, wherein the polynucleotide further comprises a heterologous polynucleotide.

Claim 50. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 49, wherein said heterologous polynucleotide encodes a heterologous polypeptide.

Claim 51. (Previously presented) A vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 47.

Claim 52. (Previously presented) The vector of claim 51, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is operably associated with a heterologous regulatory sequence that controls gene expression.

Claim 53. (Previously presented) A recombinant host cell comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 47.

Claim 54. (Previously presented) The recombinant host cell of claim 53, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is operably associated with a heterologous regulatory sequence that controls gene expression.

Claim 55. (Previously presented) A method for producing a polypeptide, comprising:

(a) culturing the recombinant host cell of claim 53 under conditions suitable to produce the polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide; and

(b) recovering the polypeptide from the cell culture.

Claim 56. (Previously presented) A composition comprising the polynucleotide of claim 47 and a carrier.

Claim 57. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide encoding a first polypeptide 95% or more identical to a second polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

(a) amino acid residues -19 to +231 of SEQ ID NO:2; and

(b) amino acid residues +1 to +231 of SEQ ID NO:2;

wherein said first polypeptide has mitogenic activity for connective tissue cells; or wherein said first polypeptide binds an antibody ~~having specificity for~~ that specifically binds the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 58. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 57, wherein said second polypeptide is (a).

Claim 59. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 57, wherein said second polypeptide is (b).

Claim 60. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide further comprises a heterologous polynucleotide.

Claim 61. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 60, wherein said heterologous polynucleotide encodes a heterologous polypeptide.

Claim 62. (Previously presented) A vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 57.

Claim 63. (Previously presented) The vector of claim 62, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is operably associated with a heterologous regulatory sequence that controls gene expression.

Claim 64. (Previously presented) A recombinant host cell comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 57.

Claim 65. (Previously presented) The recombinant host cell of claim 64, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is operably associated with a heterologous regulatory sequence that controls gene expression.

Claim 66. (Previously presented) A method for producing a polypeptide, comprising:

(a) culturing the recombinant host cell of claim 64 under conditions suitable to produce the polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide; and

(b) recovering the polypeptide from the cell culture.

Claim 67. (Previously presented) A composition comprising the polynucleotide of claim 57 and a carrier.